JAN 16 '02 01:03PM SENATOR BOB GRAHAM

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RELEASED IN FULL

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0903

January 16, 2002

Mr. Paul V. Kelly
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Legislative Affairs
United States Department of State
2201 C Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20520-0229

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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Enclosed is a letter from Helen Hoffman.

I would appreciate your reviewing the information that has been presented and providing me with your comments. Please address your reply to my state office:

United States Senator Bob Graham 2252 Killearn Center Boulevard, Suite 300 Tallahassee, Florida 32309-3573 Attention: Sharon McLanahan

Telephone: (850) Facsimile: (850)

(850) 907-1100 (850) 894-3222

Your cooperation and assistance are greatly appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

United States Senate

BG/slm

Enclosure

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON DATE/CASE ID: 11 DEC 2008 200705645

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West Palm Beach Office:

The Lola and Saul Kramer Federation Building On The Jeanne Levy Jewish Community Campus www.jewishpalmbeach.org

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Senator Bob Graham 150 S.E. 2nd Ave. Ste 1025 Miami, FL 33131 Attn: Ellen Roth, Director Miami Office

Dear Senator Graham.

December 21, 2001

On behalf of the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County, we want to express our appreciation to you for your interest in the investigation of the bombing of the Jewish Community Headquarters in Argentina.

As you know, the trial of those indicted in relation to the bombing of the Argentinean Jewish Mutual Aid Association (AMIA) building is currently taking place. The attack, which took place on July 18, 1994, claimed the lives of 86 people and left more than 300 wounded. The attack came two years after a similar attack on the Israeli Embassy on March 17, 1992, that left 129 people dead (In the attack on the Israeli Embassy, there was little progress and not enough material evidence to begin a trial).

Both attacks were carried out, presumably by suicide hombers, who used cars as bombs. About 20 people were accused of complicity on different levels. The most important among them, a car salesman who presumably sold the car used as the bomb in the attack and 4 police officers to whom the car was delivered. The police officer involved is Juan Jose Ribelli, a right hand to the former chief of the Buenos Aires province police. The Buenos Aires police are highly corrupt and the detained policemen are considered to be the key to the local connection and the main providers of logistical support to the terrorists.

The attorneys representing the Jewish community in this case have made a linkage between the Buenos Aires attack and the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. They believe the perpetrators of both attacks came from the same source. Argentinean authorities identified Imad Mugniyah, commander of special operations for Hezbollah and an associate of Osama bin Laden, as one of the suspects of the attacks. The FBI placed Mugniyah on its Most Wanted Terrorists list.

The U.S. also pointed at two additional suspects, Ali Fallahian and Assad Ahmad Barakat. Fallahian was the Iranian Intelligence Minister in 1994,

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during the attack on the AMIA. Barakat was identified as a Lebanese entrepreneur, very active in the tri-border area of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. This area is considered to be the epicenter of Islamic terrorism in South America.

In addition, the 1994 Buenos Aires and the U.S. September 11 attacks both took place at the same time, around 9.00 a.m., and had similar styles. They both caused great devastation and no organization claimed responsibility or specified any reason that motivated the attacks.

Two weeks ago, an American-Jewish delegation, in which the undersigned Helen Hoffman took part, met with several Argentinean-Jewish leaders. These leaders request the attack in Buenos Aires receive more attention by the American intelligence authorities, particularly given the apparent linkage between the terrorist attacks in both countries.

We would appreciate anything you could do to help advance the investigation in Argentina.

We look forward to hearing from you. Feel free to contact Luis Fleischman at (561) 478-0700, ext. 170.

Sincerely.

Helen Hoffman, Past President

Luis Fleischman, Ph.D Director

Jewish Community Relations Council
Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County

Helen Hoffman

Victor Lavier

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